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BRIEFLY

Body of girl retrieved from river Jhelum after two days in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): The body of a teenage girl, who jumped into the river Jhelum near Habba Kadal, was retrieved on Friday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the body of the teenage girl (name withheld) was retrieved from the river Jhelum near Chattabal this morning.

The teenage girl had jumped into the river Jhelum from Habba Kadal bridge, a video of which also went viral on the social media platforms.

Soon after the incident, the SDRF team reached the spot and launched a rescue operation for the two straight days.

The body was however that was floating on the water near Chattabal, was retrieved this morning, the officials said.

Moreover, police have taken up the investigation into the matter.

Delhi Police cracks down on Chinese manjha; registers 78 FIRs, arrests 79

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): As many as 79 people have been arrested here in the last 20 days for selling Chinese 'manjha' that has caused injuries as well as fatalities in the national capital.

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3 Anantnag residents killed as vehicle veers off road, falls in gorge in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): At least three persons died after a vehicle veered off road and fell into a gorge on Tanghdar-Teethwal road in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, officials said.

An official said that the accident took place near Sikh bridge, resulting into the death of three individuals from Anantnag district.

The dead have been identified as Mushtaq Ahmed Khan (41) son of Ghulam Nabi Khan, Feroz Ahmed Pala (45) son of Abdul Salaam Pala and Nazir Ahmed Magray (55) son of Mohammad Sultan Magray—all Anantnag's Seer Hamdan.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

New record of over 7.28 Cr Income-Tax returns filed: Tax Deptt

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Income Tax returns (ITRs) touched a new record of over 7.28 crore, 7.5 per cent higher compared to previous fiscal, by the July 31 deadline, the income tax department said on Friday.

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The total number of ITRs for assessment year 2024-25 filed till July 31, 2024 is more than 7.28 crore, which is 7.5 per cent higher than the total



ITRs for AY 2023-24 (6.77 crore) filed till July 31, 2023, the department said in a statement.

"Out of the total ITRs of 7.28 crore filed for AY 2024-25, 5.27 crore have been filed in the new tax regime compared to 2.01

crore ITRs filed in the old tax regime," it said.

Thus, about 72 per cent of taxpayers have opted for the new tax regime, while 28 per cent continue to be in the old tax regime.

The filing of ITRs peaked on July 31, 2024 (the due date for salaried taxpayers and other non-tax audit cases), with over 69.92 lakh ITRs having been filed on a single day.

The department also received 58.57 lakh ITRs from first-time filers, a fair indication of the widening

of the tax base.

In a historic first, ITRs (ITR-1, ITR-2, ITR-4, ITR-6) were deployed on the e-filing portal on the first day of the Financial Year i.e. On April 1, 2024.

Out of the 7.28 crore ITRs filed for A.Y. 2024-25, 45.77 per cent of ITRs are ITR-1 (3.34 crore), 14.93 per cent are ITR-2 (1.09 crore), 12.5 per cent are ITR-3 (91.10 lakh), 25.77 per cent are ITR-4 (1.88 crore) and 1.03 per cent are ITR-5 to ITR-7 (7.48 lakh).

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Amarnath Yatra | Batch of 1221 pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): A fresh batch of 1221 pilgrims chanting 'Bam Bam Bhole' on Friday left for Shri Amarnath cave shrine from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp here.

The pilgrims left for both Pahalgam and Baltal routes in a fleet of 54 vehicles.

For Baltal 395 pilgrims and for Pahalgam 826 pilgrims left from the base camp under tight security arrangements.

Last year, over 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance



at the cave shrine. The 52-day long Amarnath Yatra will conclude on August 19.

Police arrests 651 drug peddlers in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): Police have arrested 651 drug peddlers and recovered drugs worth Rs 86.5 crore so far in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said here on Friday.

Among the 651 drug peddlers, 122 were hard-core who had been

booked under PITNDPS, and 375 were detained under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Under the aegis of the Drug-Free Baramulla campaign and continuing its action against drug menace, police have also recovered drugs worth Rs

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BSF Special DG reviews security situation along IB in Jammu



JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): Border Security Force Special Director Y B Khurania on Friday arrived for a two-day visit to the Jammu frontier and reviewed the security situation in the region.

The meeting took place in the wake of the perceived threat of cross-

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ED conducts first raid in Leh in fake cryptocurrency business case

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: In its first ever raids in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Enforcement Directorate on Friday conducted searches as part of its money laundering probe linked to a cryptocurrency fraud case in which investors lost more than Rs 7 crore worth of deposits, officials said.

The agency's zonal office here raided at least six premises in Leh town of Ladakh, Jammu in J-K and Sonipat in Haryana in the case against A R Mir and others.

It is alleged that 2,508 investors deposited more than Rs 7.34 crore in a fake cryptocurrency business in the name of "Emollient Coin Limited".

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Ashok Kumar Sharma posted as SSP Security J&K

JAMMU, Aug 2 (Agencies): The government on Friday relieved Altaf Ahmad Shah, from his duties in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and posted Ashok Kumar Sharma, Commandant IRP-24th Bn as new SSP Security J&K.

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Over 13 lakh Indian students pursuing higher studies Abroad in 2024: Govt

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Over 13 lakh Indian students are currently pursuing higher studies abroad in 2024, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh shared data in a written response in Rajya Sabha to queries on whether the govern-

ment maintains data of emigrant students going abroad for studies.

In his response, Singh shared country-wise details of Indian students studying abroad, spanning 108 countries, including the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Singapore, Russia, Israel and Ukraine.

According to the data shared, as on date, 13,35,878 Indian students are pursuing higher studies abroad in 2024.

For 2023, the figure was 13,18,955, while it was 9,07,404 for 2022.

In the current year, of the 1,33,5878 Indian students 4,27,000 were studying in Canada and

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J&K leader Usman Majid quits Apni Party over growing proximity with BJP

SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir minister and Apni Party vice president Usman Majid has parted ways with the party alleging that the "youngest regional outfit" was playing second fiddle to the BJP.

"I have parted ways with the Apni Party as friends. But, it was clear



that the they are aligned with BJP. We have seen it in the elections that they

have an understanding with the BJP," Majid told PTI here.

The former MLA from north Kashmir's Bandipora assembly constituency said his constituents were against the "anti-minority stance of the BJP" and hence he has decided to snap ties with the Apni Party.

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CS for expediting progress on Parvatmala projects



SRINAGAR, Aug 2 (Agencies): Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday held a meeting of National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) to take stock of the progress made on several projects proposed to be taken-up under Parvatmala across the UT.

Besides CEO, NHLML those present in the meeting includes ACS, Forests; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/

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EDITORIAL

Reservation
Policy

Reservation policies are integral to promoting social justice and equality within a society. They are designed to uplift marginalized and underrepresented groups by ensuring their access to various opportunities and resources, such as education, employment, and political representation. In many countries, including India, reservation policies are a critical tool for addressing historical disadvantages and systemic discrimination faced by certain communities.

The concept of reservation or affirmative action has its roots in the need to address historical injustices and inequalities. In India, the reservation policy emerged from the recognition that certain communities, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), faced significant social and economic disadvantages due to historical discrimination and exclusion.

The Indian Constitution, adopted in 1950, enshrined the principle of affirmative action to promote equality and uplift disadvantaged groups. Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution provide for reservations in educational institutions and public employment to ensure that these groups have fair opportunities for advancement.

These communities historically faced severe social discrimination and economic backwardness. Reservations are provided in educational institutions, public sector jobs, and political representation to improve their socio-economic status.

OBCs are communities that are economically and socially disadvantaged but do not fall under the SC or ST categories. Reservations are offered to help these groups gain better access to education, employment, and political representation.

Introduced more recently, the EWS reservation provides a certain percentage of reservations for economically disadvantaged individuals from the general category. This aims to ensure that economic status, rather than caste alone, is considered in the reservation framework.

Reservations in educational institutions ensure that students from reserved categories have access to higher education. For instance, in India, a certain percentage of seats in government and aided educational institutions are reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs, and EWS.

The reservation policy is also applied to public sector jobs, ensuring that a proportion of positions are allocated to individuals from reserved categories. This is intended to promote diversity and equal representation within the workforce.

Reservations are also implemented in legislative bodies, such as the Parliament and State Legislatures, to ensure adequate representation of SCs and STs. This aims to give these communities a voice in decision-making processes and governance.

While reservation policies aim to promote equity, they are not without controversy and challenges. Some of the common criticisms include:

Critics argue that reservations may compromise meritocracy by prioritizing caste or community over merit. This can lead to concerns about the quality of education and services.

There are concerns that reservation policies may reinforce caste identities rather than fostering a more integrated society. Critics argue that affirmative action could potentially perpetuate divisions rather than resolving them.

In some cases, individuals from relatively well-off families within reserved categories may benefit from reservations, leading to concerns about the efficacy and fairness of the policy.

To address these challenges, several reforms and adjustments have been proposed.

Incorporating economic criteria into the reservation framework (e.g., EWS reservations) aims to address disparities within reserved categories and focus on economic disadvantage rather than only caste.

Regular reviews and updates of reservation policies ensure that they remain relevant and effective in addressing current socio-economic realities.

Ensuring that reservations do not compromise quality by providing additional support mechanisms, such as remedial education and skill development programs, can help bridge the gap.

Reservation policies are a crucial mechanism for promoting social justice and ensuring equitable access to opportunities for marginalized communities. While they face challenges and criticisms, ongoing reforms and a balanced approach can help address these issues and enhance the effectiveness of these policies. By fostering an inclusive society and addressing historical disadvantages, reservation policies contribute to a more equitable and just social framework.

Kamala entry opens race: Dems cheer, Gop in a fix

By: K.C Singh

The Joe Biden-Donald Trump presidential debate on June 27 unleashed cascading events which eventually ended with President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the race on July 21. In between came the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. President Biden addressed the media to allay concerns about his physical and mental fitness for another term, but worsened matters with each appearance. The pressure mounted as big donors and even former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Hollywood icon George Clooney joined in the demands for his exit. The failed Trump assassination worsened matters as Mr Trump gained public sympathy and enthused his faithful. Also Read - Saeed Naqvi | In Middle East's endgame, where will Israel finally be left standing? Advertisement The denouement was sudden as Mr Biden, confined to his seaside retreat due to testing positive for Covid-19, quietly released a letter on July 21 announcing his exit. Quickly thereafter, he endorsed his vice-president Kamala Devi Harris as his favoured replacement. She in turn acted with great dispatch to neutralise potential rivals and garner the support of a majority of the 3,636 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on August 19-22. Also Read - Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay | Push for Bengal's division will be damaging for BJP Ms Harris has strengths and weaknesses. First, the element of surprise catches the Trump campaign geared to handling President Biden. Now they must quickly recalibrate and devise a new line of attack. Second, because she was not an overly pro-active vice-president, she can disassociate from the unpopular policy decisions of the Biden presidency. Third, being two decades younger than Mr Trump,

the age argument, which was Mr Biden's albatross, now hangs around Mr Trump's neck. Also Read - Dilip Cheria | Rajiv Gauba all set to retire as longest-serving Cabinet Secy On the negative side, she hails from California, and is thus easily labelled as a liberal. There is also finger-pointing that she got political patronage dating an older and powerful politician, Willie Brown, though he was separated from wife. Also, she faces the same gender bias that Hillary Clinton encountered in 2016. She also was labelled during the 2020 presidential primaries as an excessively tough enforcer of the law on African-American criminals as the district attorney of San Francisco (2004-11) and attorney-general of California (2011-17). Also Read - Suman Sahai | Heat shelters are urgently needed as world's climate is changing swiftly On policy issues, her strong defence of women's reproductive rights should help her gain women's support nationally. This is the reverse of the stand of J.D. Vance, Mr Trump's running mate. Ms Harris has also been able to quickly distance herself from the Biden administration's almost unconditional support to Israel on the Gaza war. As civilian casualties mounted, public opinion in the US, especially across premier university campuses, fractured. She signalled discomfort by skipping Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to the US Congress. She met him separately and apparently conveyed her unhappiness over the Israeli operations. The bread and butter issue for Republicans, and especially Donald Trump, is immigration. They label her as the "tsar" of immigration when her role was limited to exploring the root causes of the problem. She went on her first foreign trip as vice-president to Guatemala in 2021 to study how migration could be blocked at the source. The Democratic riposte is that it was Donald Trump who

blocked a bipartisan deal on the subject in the Congress. The Biden administration did slow down the border wall construction and stop the terrible practice of separating children from parents. But walls do not stop the movement of people. The solution lies in a mix of law enforcement and economic evolution of countries of Central and South America. Ms Harris' likely nomination elicited excitement in India. Jocularly, considering that Mr Vance's wife is a Telugu, some called it an Andhra Pradesh versus Tamil Nadu contest. Levity aside, any person of Indian origin, and even less one of mixed race, born and brought up in the United States, will first think of US interests. Our permanent representatives to the United Nations, when Nikki Haley was the US ambassador, did not get any special treatment officially from her. However, at a social level, she was easier to engage. However, Ms Harris has in the past stood for freedom and human rights. She supported, while she was a senator, an Indian-origin colleague whom external affairs minister S. Jaishankar had once rebuked by cancelling a meeting. As President, she would view occasional actions of the Indian government to compromise human rights and democratic institutions in the broader context of strengthening Indo-US relations. But personal comfort in dealing with the Indian leadership is a different matter. Thus, bilateral relations may not be visibly affected but, in her case, personal warmth may well evaporate. Donald Trump, when last in office, was shrewdly managed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through a mix of flattery and public theatre. But a Trump presidency will always have unpredictable dimensions. In his latest interview with Businessweek, he is still fixated on his Harley Davidson story and Indian motorcycle imports. He recounts how company

executives, when meeting him in the White House, had cribbed about the difficulties of doing business. He adds: "I said 'You mean like India'. India's an amazing abuser. One of the best." The story proceeds: "Let me guess: India's tariffing you, right?" The story continues with Indian tariffs of 200 per cent imposed to compel them to open an Indian plant, thereby shutting the American one. The facts: Indian duty on motorcycle imports was 50 per cent. Harley announced an Indian plant in 2010, six years before Mr Trump entered office. Talleyrand's quote about a French dynasty applies aptly to Donald Trump: "The Bourbons have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing". In Mr Trump's case, it also covers all fact-free stories. India-US relations are close and multidimensional, but the Indian commitment to strategic independence jars the Americans occasionally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow as the 75th anniversary summit of Nato opened in Washington is one such example. India will manage bilateral relations with whoever gets elected as the US President. But geopolitically, a Trump presidency will cause far more disruption. He will blindly back Israel, increasing the possibility of an Israel-Iran conflict. The situation has already worsened with the killing of the top leaders of Hamas, in Iran, and of Hezbollah in Lebanon. His solution to the Ukraine war rests on the acceptance by Ukraine of the status quo. This can cause fissures in Nato. Mr Biden had largely followed Mr Trump's China policy which Mr Trump will happily resume. The European nations and US allies in the Pacific, including Japan, are already mentally preparing for a world with an isolationist US. The Trump-proofing of foreign policies is perhaps underway even in China and Russia. Hopefully, South Block is similarly attuned.

Increasing Population and Decreasing Resources

By: Vijay Garg

Wildly increasing population is one of the biggest problems in the world today. In many countries of the world, the resources available there are now decreasing in proportion to the increasing population. Obviously, if the population of any country continues to grow at a rapid pace, the pressure on the natural resources available there will also increase in the same proportion. If we look at it in the context of India, on July 7, 2024, India's population was 1 billion 44 crore 19 lakh 10,332. It covers approximately 18.02 percent of the world's total population (8.119 billion). But who is forced to live on only two and a half percent of the world's land. According to the United Nations' global report on food crisis released at the end of April this year, today about 282 million people in 59 countries around the world are forced to remain hungry. According to the report, due to deteriorating food security in the war-torn Gaza Strip and Sudan, more than 24 million people had to go hungry due to lack of food by 2022. If seen, the report of the United Nations clearly indicates that as the world's population increased, so did the number of people. The number also continued to increase. The first report of the United Nations on food shortage came in 2016, compared to which in the latest report the number of hungry people around the world has increased by four times. It is worth noting that the increasing population is not a simple task of providing basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, drinking water, medical care, medicines etc. to all the citizens in proportion to the population. To supply increasing population to any government is

due to various sources of energy, oil and natural coal, oil natural gases etc. are also highly dependent on. The pressure has increased, to reduce which it is necessary to find and use alternative sources of energy. Economist Thomas Robert Malthus, after mathematically considering the relationship between food and human population in 1798, showed that increasing food supply leads to rapid population growth. increases and depletes the available resources. • Resulting in continued human suffering. Unless the population is controlled. In 1888, the then Viceroy Lord Dufferin had expressed the apprehension that agriculture in India wouldThe production is low and due to rapid population growth famine occurs here. Despite this, India's average population growth rate from 1871 to 1941 was 0.60 percent, while the world average was 0.69 percent. However, in the first two decades of the twentieth century the population growth rate remained relatively low. 1931 Census of 1931 revealed that the population in India increased at the rate of one percent every year between 1921-1931, everyone was shocked, but after 1951 this rate reached around two percent. However, since the 1970s, there has been a continuous decline in the country's population growth rate. This is probably the result of improvements made in the level of education and health in the last few decades, because till now the rate of population growth has been found highest in those areas where people are not educated and healthy. Although this decline has been relatively slow, if we look at the Economic Survey data, the annual population growth rate in India which was 2.5 percent between 1971-81, came down to 1.3 percent by the middle of 2011-16.

The other side of this is that due to increase in population and decrease in resources, countries are in debt. The burden also starts increasing. According to a report by Business Standard, by September 2023, the total debt burden on India had reached Rs 205 lakh crore. At the same time, according to a report released in 2021 by the World Economic Forum, India's rank in education quality is 90th. According to a UN report on population released on November 15, 2022, India will overtake China by 2027, whereas in April 2023 itself, defying the UN's assessment, India became the most populous country in the world by overtaking China. United in February 2024The nation itself had released another report. Although in 2011 There has been no census in India since. However, unemployment, hunger, malnutrition, disease, poverty, helplessness etc. arising due to uncontrolled population growth are such problems which can destroy the moral, ideological, cultural, traditional and moral fabric of any society. Are. Due to this, the social development, cultural upliftment, mental and spiritual upliftment of the individuals may get hampered if this happens. So violence all around in the society There will be a huge increase in crimes like rape, corruption, looting, baiting, theft, snatching, murder, suicide, extremism and terrorism. People will only pursue their own interests without caring about law and social order. More or less, our country is passing through similar circumstances today. By the way, if we talk about India's experiences regarding population, it is surprising for any Prime Minister of the country except Gandhi that during the tenure of Prime Minister Indira, no drastic steps were taken by the government, which

could curb the uncontrolled population growth. Can be installed. , Perhaps the governments may have been avoiding angering the public, because before independence, there was a perception in the Indian society that high population was the measure of development. Actually, in those days the decrease in population was considered to be the result of negative circumstances, which was a bad situation, but with time our thinking changed and we started considering whether India is capable of handling such a large population. . The tragedy of severe drought and famine occurring from time to time also underlined this concern. Pillow. But till the 1970s, our governments kept looking for a solution to population growth by increasing food grain production and family planning programs were strictly adopted, and then politicians became very angry at the increasing population. He thought it better to remain silent. Even after globalization, the issue of population remained pressing in India, but the current Prime Minister, on the occasion of Independence Day in 2019, expressed concern over population growth from the ramparts of the Red Fort and called on the states to make plans to stop it. Did. Presenting the interim Budget 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the formation of a high-powered committee to address the challenges of rapidly increasing population and demographic changes, keeping in mind the goal of creating a 'developed India'. Will give suggestions to deal with the problems.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha, Ulajh sell less than 1000 tickets each in pre-sales: Report

This week's Bollywood releases – Ajay Devgn and Tabu's Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha and Janhvi Kapoor's Ulajh – aren't looking up at the box office.

After the solo release from last week – Shawn Levy's buddy Marvel movie Deadpool & Wolverine – made waves at the domestic box office, things aren't looking up for this week's releases. As per a report by agency, Neeraj Pandey's romantic saga Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha and Sudhanshu Saria's spy thriller Ulajh haven't been able to sell more than 1000 tickets each in pre-sales.

Pre-sales The report states that Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha, starring Ajay Devgn and Tabu, has sold less than 1000 tickets in pre-sales. The other Bollywood release this week – Janhvi Kapoor-starrer Ulajh – has collected even less than 750 tickets. These sales are



even lower than Sudha Kongara's release from last month – Sarfira, starring Akshay Kumar. As per Sacnilk, so far, Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha has collected 49.79 lakh at the box office and is likely to finish between 2 and 3 crore on opening day. Meanwhile, Ulajh is estimated to finish even lower, between 1 and 2

crore, on Friday. Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha was initially scheduled to release a month ago on July 5. However, the unstoppable box office run of the holdover release – Nag Ashwin's dystopian sci-fi epic Kalki 2898 AD prompted distributors to request the makers to push Auron Mein Kahan

Dum Tha to a new release date. Ulajh has also released this week after a couple of delays.

About the films Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha is directed by Neeraj Pandey of A Wednesday, Special 26, and Baby-fame. It marks the 10th film of Ajay and Tabu together, who've delivered hits like Thak-

shak, Golmaal Again, De De Pyaar De, and the Drishyam franchise. Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha is a love story that spans decades. Shantanu Maheshwari and Sai Manjrekar play the younger versions of Ajay and Tabu respectively, while Jimmy Shergill also has a pivotal role.

Meanwhile, Ulajh also stars Gulshan Devaiah and Roshan Mathews. It has been predominantly shot in London. The Hindustan Times review states, "Ulajh rushes and expects viewers to be on the same page wherever the ride makes a jarring halt. The problem with films based on inter-country conflicts is they want to be taken seriously, but still rely on convenience to drive the plot forward."

Madhuri Dixit to celebrate 40 years in the entertainment industry with fans



Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit, who made her debut with the film Abohdh on August 10, 1984, is marking an impressive 40 years in the entertainment

industry. The beloved actress, known for her enduring charm, plans to celebrate this milestone by reconnecting with her fans. Madhuri Dixit will be touring the

USA from August 8 to 11 in a special four-city tour aptly titled 'The Forever Queen of Bollywood — Madhuri Dixit.' The megastar will visit New York, Dallas, New Jersey and Atlanta, providing fans with an opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion with her.

About the tour, Madhuri said, "I have always loved meeting my fans because the feedback I get from them is amazing. Sometimes they come up and tell me how the roles I have played in films have impacted their own lives or what kind of roles they would like to see me in. This exchange of thoughts is something I look forward to, and I love getting to know who they are and what their lives are like. I have always cherished these interactions."

Rashmika Mandanna and Vicky Kaushal walk for Falguni and Shane Peacock at ICW finale

National Award-winner Vicky Kaushal said he was reminded of his wedding with Bollywood star Katrina Kaif as he walked the ramp for designers Falguni and Shane Peacock at the grand finale of the Hyundai FDCI India Couture Week 2024. The designer duo presented their latest collection Rang Mahal on the last day of the fashion gala.

The actor, currently basking in the success of Bad Newz, turned showstopper for the couturiers, along with Rashmika Mandanna, his co-star in the upcoming period drama Chhava.

Vicky shared, "I was watching the show backstage live on the



Instagram page of Falguni Shane Peacock because I wanted to see what the energy was. I was genuinely blown away by the work you guys have created.

The detailing, royalty, and grandeur was amazing.

To be very honest, I really felt like calling Katrina and telling her. So many of the outfits

reminded me of my wedding because of the things she wanted particularly. I was like 'This! I spotted that and that!' Katrina is currently on a flight, I'll tell her eventually."

As for Rashmika, she said, "I felt like an Indian princess wearing a garment by Falguni Shane Peacock. I feel beautiful and confident."

Nawazuddin: Not asked Anurag Kashyap for work, our friendship never be tested

Nawazuddin Siddiqui met filmmaker Anurag Kashyap for the first time on the sets of Shool (1999), and their first interaction was actually the latter dissuading him from taking up the job he was there for. "I had gone to do a small part in Shool and there he was. He had seen my little work in Sarfarosh and he told me not to pick up the role I was there to do in Shool as it was a very small part. He wanted me to wait for a big part, but I had a need at that time to pick up that work, so I did it," the actor shares.

"All about vibe"

Even after starting on that note, that equation transformed into a beautiful friendship, and according to Siddiqui, it was all about the vibe. "When we met the first time, I felt ye meri vibe ka banda hai. Even before I got work, I had this feeling that this man will take care of me in every way. There was that connection as he gives out such positive



energy," he says.

"I got to him jab main chaaron taraf se phans jata hun"

It's often said that you shouldn't work with friends, rather make friends at work, but when Siddiqui and Kashyap got together for Gangs Of Wasseyapur (2012), it was a ball. "Creative differences are always there, but maza tab hi hai jab milke ek rai pe pahuchein. I feel having creative differences is necessary as everyone has a

different thought process," he says, adding, "Anurag wo insan hai jisko main friend bhi nahi bol sakta par friend hai. Jab main chaaron taraf se phans jata hun, I go to him for the correct advice, and he always pulls me out of it."

"Anurag ko mujhse aur mujhko Anurag se lalach hi nahi hai kisi cheez ka"

While their friendship has had its ups and downs, the 50-year-old admits there hasn't been a single situation where their

friendship has been on the verge of breaking up. "Such a situation can never happen because I have never asked for work from Anurag. Hamari industry mein jab kaam wali dosti hoti hai, tab differences aane start ho jate hain. Par Anurag ko mujhse and mujhko Anurag se lalach hi nahi hai kisi cheez ka," he insists.

"He is very careless regarding his health, want him to be healthy"

Kashyap is often referred to as the controversy's child and while Siddiqui enjoys his friend's blunt attitude, he admits that he has wanted to stop him at times. "I have never said it to him, but many times I have wanted to. But if I am ever in such a situation, Anurag always calls me out on it," he says, revealing the one thing he wants to change in his friend: "I will change his carelessness. He is very careless regarding his health, and I want him to be in the best state health-wise."

Brinda review: Trisha Krishnan's police procedural explores zealotry with sensitiveness

Brinda review: Engaging web series in Telugu have been few and far in between. Some lack the sensitiveness to deal with current issues while others resort to taking the easy way out. Surya Manoj Yangala's Brinda, though, will force you to reflect on the pitfalls of extremism - religious or otherwise - without resorting to sensationalism. Old superstitions, a rare bird, mysterious murders, a cult and spine drive this story.

Brinda story Brinda (Trisha Krishnan) is a newly-appointed SI who faces sexism at the police station she works at by day and is plagued by nightmares come evening. She has to put up with her younger sister's smart mouth at home and pushback from superiors at work, there's no respite. Despite being asked not to, she digs deeper into what seems like a unique case of killing on the surface, only for it to unravel into something far more sinister. Making it worse is the fact that she's finding answers she has sought for ages, but it's not what she hoped for.

Brinda review Right from the get go,

Surya makes it clear that this is not the kind of series you watch while snacking on popcorn with half your attention on the phone. When the first episode opens with an attempt at human sacrifice to satiate blind superstition, you know the director isn't here to play. As the series progresses, everything seems as dark and twisted as the dead bodies Brinda comes across. Shakthi Kanth Karthick's music deserves a special mention for the haunting opening score alone. The ending though, could've definitely been better.

Smart writing Brinda is written by Surya, with Padmavathi Malladi assisting him on screenplay and Jay Krishna in dialogues. After you complete the 8 episodes, you get the sense that you could've predicted some of what's happened. But when it's all playing out, you're too focused to play Sherlock. Major revelations about characters don't annoy you even if they're unveiled late in the series. The way Brinda goes about solving the case almost feels like she's picking



at a scab she won't let heal. Understandable, given her past.

Two sides of the same coin

The series also forces its players and the audience to look inward. When an essential character in the series tells two children they must leave the world a better place than how they inherited it, they interpret it differently. The series doesn't hold back while taking a stance on the state of the world today. Inciting violence in God's name is reprehensible, and so is justifying your dark deeds while opposing it - it's two sides of the same coin. A scene where a case of arson is mistook as something holy just underlines it.

The drawbacks Some plot points in the

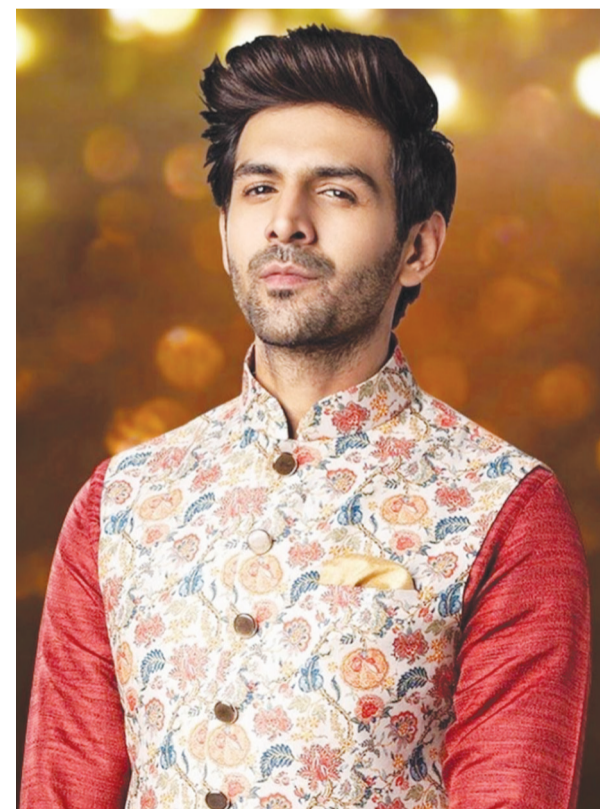
series don't work the way Surya intended them to. Brinda's equation with her sister Chutki sticks out like a sore thumb. After a point, Chutki's teenage rebellion begins to feel unnecessary to the overall story and borderline annoying, especially when Brinda's relationship with her mother (Aamani) is much more layered. The ending also comes out of left field and is hastily wrapped up. Everything else leading up to it is far more interesting. The trope of how a central character stole someone else's identity is also not convincing.

The heart of it all Yes, the series is about solving a slew of murders, but Surya does a good job of bringing his characters to life. Brinda's dark circles deepen

as the show progresses, and it's not surprising when her calm veneer cracks. Her colleague Sarathi (Ravindra Vijay) - the only person who treats her like a human at her workplace - also has office politics and familial pressures of his own to deal with. Inrajith Sukumaran is good at playing the standoffish and mysterious man. Special shoutout to Anand Sami, who'll send a chill down your spine in some scenes and make you oddly empathise with him in others. His back story breaks your heart.

In conclusion Brinda is the kind of series that keeps your attention and is relevant without being preachy. No good or evil exists in the tale for the sake of it. It's uncomfortable when Surya finds a way to make you understand the motivations of some characters' horrendous actions, even if you might disagree with them. But the message it delivers is timely, and the way it deals with trauma is with sensitiveness. That makes it worth watching. Brinda is now streaming on SonyLIV.

Kartik Aaryan kept his first film a secret from many for this reason



Actor Kartik Aaryan recently opened up about the proudest moment of his life. While talking to agency, the actor claimed that he felt like he 'won a medal' when he landed his first film, Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA, in 2011.

the contract for Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA, it was a big deal to me to finally land a film. I felt like I won a medal because I struggled for it for long. It was a film that was finally going on-floors." When asked why he felt so relieved about that, he stated that he had lost one or two films before that despite landing auditions. He said, "Before that I got films but it didn't work out. No

one but my family knew I was shooting for the film, because I was still sceptical. I finally told other people when the film's trailer released."

Kartik's first salary On Raj Shamani's podcast in June, Kartik clarified that he wasn't paid 1 crore for his first film. "Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA wasn't 1 crore. It was 70,000. It's all instinct, and it's your choices that help you shoot up through the ranks," he said, adding, "I didn't make that much even for Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety, I started making money only after it."

Stating that he's now making 40 crore, he added, "Those days, I used to worry a lot about TDS. The tax would already be deducted from my paychecks. I made 63,000 for Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA after taxes. TDS used to really worry me. I remember making 1,500 for my first ad, and 70,000 for the first film. And now, I've climbed up to this number."

Kartik was last seen in Kabir Khan's sports drama Chandu Champion, he will soon be seen in Anees Bazmee's Bhoole Bhulaiya 3.

GDC R S Pura conducts campus cleanliness drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: As a part of series of activities to be carried out to commemorate 77 years of Independence, NSS Volunteers and NCC cadets of Govt. Degree College R. S. Pura in collaboration with the beautification committee and Swachhta Pakhwada conducted campus cleanliness drive on Friday under the guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College.

The drive aimed to develop an attitude of concern and to provide necessary skills to the college students in handling and promoting waste management at individual levels. Near about 40 students participated in this



drive with great zeal and enthusiasm.

They cleaned the college campus, parking area and collected plastic garbage from every nook and corner of the college.

The day of the drive witnessed an energetic group assembling to extend the scope of the cleanliness drive.

The participants collaborated to clean up the vicinity, removing debris, and focusing on waste segregation to ensure effective disposal.

While speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college exhorted that cleanliness is most important for physical well-being and a healthy

environment.

She emphasized the importance of community-driven initiatives in creating lasting and positive impacts on the environment and society by briefing the students about the various ways by which students can contribute towards a clean and green environment.

She further appreciated the efforts of the students and advised them to continue the drive till visible results are achieved.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO and co-ordinated by co-convenor beautification committee, Dr. Shifali Abrol, Dr Rakesh Choudhary, ANO Boys and Dr. Roopali Jammwal, ANO Girls.

The event concluded on a high note, with participants pledging to continue maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings and spreading awareness about hygiene practices.

The efforts put forth by the volunteers stand as a testament to the dedication towards the betterment of society and the nation as a whole.

All Party protests tomorrow in demand of statehood, restoration of democratic rights

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: All party parties will hold a dharna in Jammu on 3rd August demanding full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of democratic rights, along with rolling back the recent amendments made in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act.

The final decision regarding this dharna was taken in the meeting held in Jammu NC office on Friday.

On this occasion Manish Sahni (State Head Shiv Sena (UBT) convenor APUM), Ratan Lal Gupta (NC State President), Narendra Gupta (Congress), Vijay Lochan (NC), Rakesh Singh (NC), Sunny Kant Chimb (HRC), Nirmal Mahana (AAP), Narendra Singh (S Akali Dal), Comrade Sukhdev Singh (DBYC), Subhash Mehta (CPL), Narendra Khajuria, Chan-



dra Mohan (Jammu District President) from NC, Pradeep Bali, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Rakesh Singh, Raka, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Vikram Puri, Gurnam Singh and Sanjeev Kohli were present.

While briefing the media Sahni said that on August 3, peaceful dharna will be held at Maharaja Hari Singh statue site under the banner of All Party United Front.

He said that the amendments made in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, under which the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir was increased,

the voting rights of the people have been almost hollowed out, voices will be raised for rolling it back with immediate effect, returning the status of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of the rights of the local people.

Sahni said that except BJP, leaders and workers of almost all opposition parties, Congress, NC, PDP, Shiv Sena (UBT), AAP etc. including social organizations will be present in this demonstration.

All leaders appealed to the people to enthusiastically participate in the demonstration for the restoration of their rights.

Tirupati Balaji Temple hosts special Abhishek Ceremony



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: RC Subramanyam, the Superintendent of the temple, along with Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, Ramesh Babu, Ved Pandit Amit Shukla, Neeraj Shukla, Archak Pandit Ravi Teja Nar-simbha, Parichark Pandit Surya Prakash, Anurag Patu Pradik Gautam Pandey, Chandan Prasad Distributor Pandit Keshwa and Ramgopal Sharma

This ceremony, which takes place every Friday, was performed with prayers for the welfare of the country.

Dr. Varun expressed his happiness over the

temple, stating that it is a pleasure and a matter of pride to have the Tirupati Balaji Temple established in Jammu.

He highlighted that this temple allows people in Jammu to witness and experience the culture of South India, describing the feeling as heavenly.

Dr. Varun appealed to people to visit the temple and pay obeisance, emphasizing that the dedication of Lord Venkateswara's temple would boost spiritual tourism in the region.

On this occasion, RC Subramanyam, the

Superintendent of the temple, also appealed to the Transport Commissioner to start a bus service for the temple to facilitate easy access for devotees.

He emphasized the need to start the Bharat Darshan bus service to promote awareness of the temple among tourists.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Sai Krishna, Temple Inspector, RC Subramanyam, Superintendent, Ramesh Babu, Ved Pandit Amit Shukla, Neeraj Shukla, Archak Pandit Ravi Teja Nar-simbha, Parichark Pandit Surya Prakash, Anurag Patu Pradik Gautam Pandey, Chandan Prasad Distributor Pandit Keshwa and Ramgopal Sharma

The presence of these dignitaries underscored the significance of the event and the temple's role in fostering spiritual and cultural connections in the region.

JK Kissan Council expresses gratitude to LG Manoj Sinha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: The JK Kissan Council held a special meeting in Jammu to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Atal Dulloo, IAS (Chief Secretary, JKUT), and Sheldner Kumar, (Principal Secretary, APD&FW) for granting a one-year extension to Arvinder Singh Reen, the Director of Agriculture, Jammu, JKUT.

In a resolution passed during the meeting, the JK Kissan Council expressed its high appreciation for the current state of agriculture and allied sectors under the leadership of Arvinder Singh Reen.

The council emphasized that his leadership should continue through the current kharif season and beyond. In his short tenure as Director of Agriculture, Jammu, Reen has significantly accelerated agricultural growth and the implementation of HADP and other schemes. His previous roles as Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Jammu and Director (Inputs) were also highly commended by the farming community of the Jammu region. His respectful and effective treatment of the farming community, combined with his extensive experience and skills, are expected to greatly benefit the entire Jammu division in the future.

The governing council of the JK Kissan Council also appreciated the current saturation drive conducted by the agriculture department and expressed its gratitude to the farming community.

This government initiative aims to empower Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with facilities such as pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, and other agricultural inputs delivered directly to their doorsteps. Additionally, it will provide a level playing field for emerging agricultural entrepreneurs.

Members present at the meeting included Tajinder Singh Wazir (President), Sunil Choudhary (President, BKS), Sushma Devi (Director, KJMPC), Swati Basotra (Sakti Maa, Millets Cooperative), Baldev Raj (Vijaypur FPO), Vikram Singh, Sidharth Verma, Mohd. Farooq, Mohd. Irfan, Menakshi Devi and others.

JK Para Cricketer Amir Hussain motivates students in Punjab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: Para Cricketer & Brand Ambassador, Aryans Group of Colleges Amir Hussain Lone visited Rajpura & Patiala Schools. Jasbir Kaur, Principal, NTC, Rajpura; Poonam Kumari, Principal, Govt. Sen, Sec. School, Mohinderaganj; Dr. Varinderjeet, Govt. Sen, Sec. School, Civil Lines, Patiala; Vijay Kapoor, Govt, Sen Sec multi-purpose were present. Around 2000 students of Rajpura, Patiala region were addressed.

Amir thanked Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, and while addressing faculty and students, said that Believe in yourself, your abilities, and your dreams. Surround yourself with positive influences and keep moving



forward. you'll overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness.

Aryan Kataria, CEO, Aryans Group said that Amir is inspiring millions not only in India but abroad too. Despite not having arms, he has not let his passion for cricket.

For that Sachin Tendulkar & Adani Group has also honored him. For all his hard work and Aryans Group decided and announced him Brand Ambassador of Aryans. It is to be mentioned

that established in 2007, Aryans Group is running 8 different colleges including Engineering, Law, Management, Agriculture, Nursing, Pharmacy, Education, Physiotherapy etc.

The group is spread over 20-acre lush green land on Chandigarh-Patiala Highway, near Chandigarh and catering over 4000 students from different parts of the country. The organization is committed to provide high quality education to its students.

FROM PAGE 1

New record of over 7.28 Cr Income-Tax returns filed: Tax Deptt

Over 43.82 per cent of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR utility available on the e-filing portal and the remaining have been filed using offline ITR utilities, it said.

During the peak filing period, the e-filing portal successfully handled huge traffic, providing a seamless experience to taxpayers for filing of ITRs. On July 31, 2024 alone, successful logins stood at 3.2 crore.

The process of e-verification is important to commence the processing of ITRs and to issue refunds, if any, it said.

It is encouraging to note that over 6.21 crore ITRs have been e-verified, out of which more than 5.81 crore are through Aadhaar-based OTP (93.56 per cent).

Of the e-verified ITRs, more than 2.69 crore ITRs for the A.Y. 2024-2025 have been processed (43.34 per cent) till July 31, 2024.

Over 91.94 lakh challans have been received through TIN 2.0 payment system in the month of July, 2024 (for AY 2024-25), while total number of challans filed through TIN 2.0 since April 1, 2024 stands at 1.64 crore (for AY 2024-25).

The e-filing helpdesk team has handled approximately 10.64 lakh queries from taxpayers during the year up to July 31, supporting the taxpayers proactively during the peak filing period.

While expressing its gratitude to tax professionals and taxpayers for their support in compliances in filing of ITRs and forms, the statement said, taxpayers are also requested to verify their unverified ITRs if any, within 30 days of filing the ITR.

The department also urged taxpayers, who for any reason, missed filing their ITR within the due date, to complete their filing expeditiously.

The statement said a lot of emphasis was provided to educate taxpayers about old and new tax regimes.

FAQs and educational videos on the same were designed and uploaded on the e-filing portal, it said.

Focussed outreach campaigns were carried out on social media to encourage taxpayers to file their ITRs early.

Along with this, it said, unique creative campaigns were also carried out on different platforms. Informational videos in 12 vernacular languages, apart from English and Hindi, were displayed on digital platforms.

Outdoor campaigns were also carried out. Such concerted efforts led to fruitful results with increased number of filings.

ED conducts first raid in Leh in fake cryptocurrency business case

They, however, did not get any returns or currency back, and these funds were laundered by the business' promoters to purchase land assets in Jammu.

The money laundering case stems from a March 2020 FIR registered in Leh and some other complaints filed in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) against Mir and Ajay Kumar Choudhary.

Police in Leh in their FIR stated that an inquiry was conducted by a committee formed by the local district magistrate against Mir and his agents who were running the "fake" cryptocurrency business (Emollient Coin Limited) from an office located at the Anjuman Moin-UI-complex, opposite SNM Hospital, in Leh.

The committee sealed this office during inquiry on charges of "cheating many innocent individuals by assuring them to double their investment", according to the FIR.

The accused lured people of the UT of Ladakh and some other places to purchase "Emollient Coin" using cash or transferring money into bank accounts, according to Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials.

The depositors were also duped in the name of "Bitcoins" with the assurance of returns up to 40 per cent with a lock-in period of 10 months, the probe agency said.

Investors were lured into a commission of up to seven per cent of the investment made by the people on their reference in the business, thereby forming a multi-level marketing chain, the ED found.

A total of 2,508 people invested Rs 7,34,36,267 in the investment plan offered by Mir and the company (Emollient) floated by him that was incorporated in September 2017 and had its registered office in London. A man, Henry Maxwell, living in the UK capital, was its director.

The company had two promoters in India — Naresh Gullia and Channi Singh. The company was "deliberately" dissolved in March 2019, and Mir along with Choudhary launched a real estate business and acquired lands in Jammu from the funds generated by the fake cryptocurrency trade, according to the ED.

BSF Special DG reviews security situation along IB in Jammu

border infiltration along the International Border (IB) in the Jammu frontier.

Khurania was received by Border Security Force (BSF) Inspector General D K Boora and other senior officers of the Jammu frontier.

Boora provided a detailed presentation to Khurania, covering all critical aspects of border security and domination along the IB in Jammu.

Khurania chaired a security review meeting attended by the IG BSF Jammu, IG BSF Kashmir, and senior officers of the Jammu frontier, during which the situation was thoroughly reviewed.

The meeting focused on the security situation in the Jammu region.

During his visit, Khurania interacted with the jawans and praised them for their dedication and professionalism in performing their duties.

Police arrests 651 drug peddlers in Baramulla

86.5 crores since January 2023. Police also seized the illegal properties of 20 notorious drug peddlers worth Rs 10 crore, comprising residential houses, shopping complexes, vehicles, and land plots.

Police said that heroin abuse cases have seen a sharp dip in Baramulla district.

Police have urged community members to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhood.

"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law," police said.

J&K leader Usman Majid quits Apni Party over growing proximity with BJP

Asked about his political future, Majid said he will take a decision after consulting his workers.

"The decision will be taken in due course of time, keeping the interests of Bandipora paramount," he said.

Majid, a two-time MLA from Bandipora, had resigned from the Congress in 2020 to join the Apni Party.

He first became MLA in 2002 contesting as an independent candidate.

Later he was inducted as Minister of State for Finance in the Mufti Muhammad Sayeed-

led PDP-Congress government.

Majid won the 2014 Assembly election again from the Bandipora Assembly segment by defeating PDP's Nizamuddin Bhat.

Over 13 lakh Indian students pursuing higher studies Abroad in 2024: Govt

3,37,630 students in the US, 8580 in China, eight in Greece, 900 in Israel, 14 in Pakistan and 2510 in Ukraine.

"Indian Missions/Posts abroad constantly engage with Indian students studying overseas and encourage them to either register with them or on the Global Rishta Portal. They organise 'Welcome Ceremonies' for Indian students who travel abroad for the first time and brief them on security issues in the host countries.

"They also advise them to register with the Indian Missions/Posts and to regularly stay connected. Indian Missions/Posts use the aforesaid method to collect data of Indian students abroad through voluntary registrations.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad also coordinate with the concerned authorities in the host Governments to secure data on the number of Indian students studying overseas," the minister said in his response.

In response to another query, Singh said the government of India has been continuously making efforts to "increase" the number of countries that may provide visa free entry travel, visa-on-arrival facilities to Indians for ease of travelling around the world.

Ashok Kumar Sharma posted as SSP Security J&K

"In pursuance of the approval of Competent Authority to the transfer of Shri Altaf Ahmad Shah, IPS (AGMUT: 2013), SSP Security, J&K to the Union Territory of Ladakh, the officer is hereby relieved from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to enable him to join in the Union Territory of Ladakh," reads an order issued by Home Department, J&K Government, a copy of which lies with Greater Kashmir.

"Consequent to the above, Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Commandant IRP-24th Bn, is transferred and posted as Senior Superintendent of Police, Security, J&K," the order reads.

CS for expediting progress on Parvatmala projects

Jammu; Secretary, R&B; Secretary, Revenue; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar/Reasi; Commissioner, SMC; VC, LCMA; MD, JKCC and other concerned officers.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the progress made on carrying out prefeasibility reports on part of the National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) regarding the construction of ropeway projects at different tourist destinations of J&K.

Dulloo impresses upon the PSU to pace-up this process so that a clarity is obtained for making headway on technically feasible projects. He also assessed the progress made on seeking NOCs, forest clearances and the status of utility shifting coming in way of any of the ongoing projects.

He asked for depicting enhanced coordination between the central body and the concerned departments for reaching better understanding between them to resolve the impending issues.

He called for accelerating the process of establishing Multi Model Logistics Park in Samba and taking up the development of Public Transport Terminal Infrastructure (PTTI) at Katra here.

The meeting was briefed on the core issues and their status at present. It was added that out of 18 ropeway projects prefeasibility report of 3 had been carried out and consultation for 3 more is in progress.

It was further revealed that these ropeway projects includes Baltal-Amarnath Cave, Makhdoom Sahib-Hariparbat, Bhaderwah-Seojhar, Nasri Tunnel-Sanasar, Shankaracharya, Sonamarg-Thajwas besides others of great religious or tourism importance.

Delhi Police cracks down on Chinese manjha; registers 78 FIRs, arrests 79

The Delhi Police has registered 78 FIRs in this matter. "There are strict directions from senior police officers to register FIR and arrest those who are involved in selling Chinese manjha (glass-coated synthetic strings used for flying kites). Such kite strings are completely banned and teams are working round the clock to arrest those who are involved in their distribution and stocking," a senior police officer said.

Bimla Luthra highlights women's crucial role in upcoming Assembly Polls

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Aug 2: A crucial meeting of the Women Wing of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) District Udhampur Urban under the Chairperson of Mrs Sunita Mehra was held in Udhampur. Mrs Bimla Luthra, State Vice President of JKNC and former MLA, was the Chief Guest.

The meeting attended by a large number of women party workers and leaders, focused on the significant role women are expected to play in the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sunita Mehra, District President Udhampur of JKNC Women Wing, commenced the meeting by highlighting the difficulties faced by women under the current government, emphasizing the dire lack of healthcare facilities in rural and remote areas, particularly the non-availability of women doctors. She expressed concerns over the absence of basic amenities and the lack of opportunities for women



entrepreneurs. She pointed out that regions such as Dudu, Basantgarh, Pancheri, and other remote areas of Udhampur district are severely deprived of development.

Addressing the party workers, Bimla Luthra expressed deep anguish over the government's neglect of these far-flung areas on the development front. She criticized the current administration for failing to address these critical issues and for its overall neglect of the developmental needs of the region. She noted the persistent shortage of ration and the poor condition of roads, especially the crucial stretch from Ram Nagar to Dudu Basantgarh.

Reflecting on the National Conference's

past governance, the senior NC leader highlighted the key initiatives and significant progress made during their regime in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. She recalled the equitable development policies and the numerous welfare schemes that had been implemented to uplift the socio-economic status of the people, particularly women.

The former MLA urged the women of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in the upcoming Assembly elections, stressing their vital role in shaping the future of the region. She asserted that only the National Conference has the vision and capability to provide equitable development across Jammu and

Kashmir. "Women have always been the backbone of our society, and their active involvement in the electoral process is crucial for bringing about the much-needed change. The National Conference is committed to ensuring that women's voices are heard and their issues addressed," she stated.

Sunil Verma District President Udhampur Urban called upon the party workers to come forward and strengthen the hands of Party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah. Emphasizing unity and collective effort, He encouraged the workers to rally behind the party's leadership to ensure a robust and prosperous future for

Jammu and Kashmir.

Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban women wing and Joginder Kour District Vice President Jammu Urban women wing said that the National Conference has committed to uplift the marginalized sections of society. They emphasized the party's dedication to ensuring inclusive development and social justice for all. "JKNC has always been at the forefront of advocating for the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized communities. Our policies and programs are designed to address the disparities and bring about equitable growth," they stated.

The meeting concluded with a renewed resolve among the women participants to work tirelessly towards the success of the National Conference in the upcoming elections.

Among those who were present include:- Akash Verma District President Udhampur Urban YNC, Radha Rani, Samtri Devi, Capt Rattan Singh, Capt Nand Lal, Ch. Abdul Rashid and others,

NSDC in partnership with Britannia Launches Women Entrepreneurship Program



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: In a pivotal move towards empowering women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is excited to unveil the Women Entrepreneurship Program.

This initiative, aims to tackle the challenges faced by women in entrepreneurship by offering crucial skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities.

The program has been launched with the introduction of complimentary self-learning basic entrepreneurship courses available in multiple languages on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

Upon completion of these courses, participants will receive a co-branded certificate from NSDC, Britannia Industries and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), acknowledging their entrepreneurial skills and competencies.

This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.

The initiative will culminate in a grand finale where the top 50 contestants will present their business ideas to a distinguished jury. To further encourage innovation and excellence, Britannia Industries will award financial grants of 10 lakh rupees each to 10 of the most successful contestants.

At the launch of this program, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GOI said, "It is our privilege that Britannia has partnered with us, focusing on women entrepreneurship. We have achieved significant progress in entrepreneurship through NIESBUD and special programs with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development and other ministries. We are also collaborating

closely with other corporations and government departments, to provide skill training to women's self-help groups, whether individually or collectively, and to help organize them into various business entities. In the skilling segment, under Jan Shikshan Sansthan, 82% of our trainees are women. In the PMKVY short-term training program, close to 45% of the participants are women."

Echoing this sentiment, Ved Mani Tiwari, COO (Officiating CEO), NSDC & MD, NSDC International stated, "Today, this program is about women-led entrepreneurship and aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for women development. One of the most important component of this is that private and public sector organisations are going together telling women to have entrepreneurial ambitions. From Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao to Lakshmi Didi, India has travelled a lot of distance when it comes to women development."

Central Govt betrays DPs/Refugees by not granting property rights on Custodian Land in J&K: Manjit

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Aug 2: Accusing the Govt of misleading the Displaced Persons (DPs)/Refugees in Jammu and Kashmir, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh has strongly opposed the Central Govt for not granting proprietary rights to the DPs/Refugees on the Custodian land.

Addressing a meeting of the Apni Party at Vijaypur, the Party's Provincial President, and Former Minister expressed his shock over the granting of ownership rights to the DPs/Refugees of Chhamb (1965-1971) in Jammu Region over the state land while denying their longstanding demand of proprietary rights on the Custodian Land.

"These families of DPs/Refugees had to migrate in difficult times following hostility between India-Pakistan in the border areas where they owned private property/agricultural land. However,



following their displacement from their ancestral land to the other places where they were settled by then Govts in J&K," he reminded, addressing the meeting.

He said that "For decades, these DPs/Refugees demanded ownership rights to the allottees on the Custodian Land so that they can get the compensation as well as other facilities from the Govt. But their genuine demand was not considered by the Govt, and a decision was taken to give them ownership rights on the state land which is an

injustice and an attempt to rub salt on the wounds of the DPs/Refugees."

"Three to four generations of DPs / Refugees took care and nourished the Custodian Land for decades," he asserted, extending support to their demands.

He further stated that these DPs/Refugees are not given compensation whenever their land (Custodian Land) comes under any project like highway or other developmental projects.

"The compensation is paid to the Custodian Land because the

title of the land remains unchanged although the people are cultivating and have constructed their houses/commercial establishments on the above said land," he said, expressing dismay over the inhuman attitude of the Govt towards the poor financial condition of the DPs/Refugees.

He also demanded to remove the land deficiency of the DPs/Refugees.

"The DPs/Refugees have serious concern because their land that was allotted to them was acquired for construction of Govt projects, and canal work but they were not compensated with alternative land to remove the deficiency of the land," he added.

He said that the Govt has misled the people of Jammu and Kashmir because there was already an order to give property rights to the DPs/Refugees on State Land.

He however demanded that the Govt should consider granting property rights to the locals residing on the Custodian Land

/ State Land since 1947.

Expressing concern, he said that the Govt unfortunately closed the package that was sanctioned by then Central Govt after paying Rs 5.5 lakhs to the DPs/Refugees.

"The Central Govt had sanctioned Rs 25 lakhs for the DPs/Refugees. However, only Rs 5.5 lakhs was released, and then the package was closed. Thus, denying them their right to get the complete package," he added.

He said that the assurances were made that their package amount would be released. However, that remained an unfulfilled promise.

"Even as the DPs/Refugees have raised their voice and supported the BJP since 2014 at Parliamentary elections yet the national party has denied fulfilling the pending demands of the DPs/Refugees," he added.

He demanded that the pending package payment should be released in favour of the DPs/Refugees.

DSEJ in collaboration with Bharti Airtel Foundation supported over 34,000 teachers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: In a notable effort to strengthen the quality of education and teaching methods in Jammu schools, Directorate of School Education, Jammu and the Bharti Airtel Foundation collaborated to introduce 'Professional Development Initiative for Teachers' on May 14, 2024. Through this initiative, the Foundation supported in enhancing teachers' skills in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), Pedagogical Techniques, and Classroom Management Techniques.

This initiative through TheTeacherApp, supported teachers with comprehensive teaching materials and technology-integrated strategies for effective classroom engagement. Over 34,000+ teachers from 7,000+ schools have engaged in workshops, webinars, quizzes, self-paced courses and assessments to enhance their teaching skills. The teachers' active participation and notable time spent on the app reflects the success of continuous professional development through the initiative.

Poonch, Kishtwar and Udhampur districts of Jammu Division were awarded the best districts for their outstanding performance in the professional development program for teachers. Additionally, Chief



Education Officer and District Nodal Officers were recognized for their efforts towards successfully implementing good practices curated for the initiative in the schools of Jammu division.

On this occasion, Ashok Kumar Sharma - Director, Directorate of School Education, Jammu, appreciated the joint initiative and efforts made by the teachers and officials from the Education Department and Bharti Airtel Foundation to make it a success. Sh. Ashok Sharma said that he would want to see this partnership growing in future towards building capacity of teachers in Jammu.

Feedback from teachers on the initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, with 88% showing eagerness to attend more learning sessions on TheTeacherApp and 93% rated the webinars on the app as excellent.

Appreciating Directorate of School Education, Jammu, and all the partners in this valuable collaboration, Mamta Saikia, CEO - Bharti Airtel Foundation said,

"For the last 25 years, the Bharti Airtel Foundation has committed itself to enhancing education in rural India. We extend our gratitude to Directorate of School Education, Jammu, and all collaborators in this meaningful alliance for the continuous professional development of teachers. Our goal is to collaborate, sharing knowledge and best practices, to empower teachers to play an active role in their own learning journey as well as support them in uplifting their schools through innovative teaching practices."

Ashok Kumar Sharma - Director, Subah Mehta - Joint Director, Maneesha - Personnel Officer and J.R. Padha - Chief Education Officer from Directorate of School Education, Jammu along with Mamta Saikia, CEO - Bharti Airtel Foundation, Binu Nair - Chief Program Operations, Anil Bhat - Regional Head and Amit Taneja - Technology Lead, TheTeacherApp from the Foundation graced the ceremony.

BLSKS presents cultural performances for Amarnath Pilgrims at Yatri Niwas Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: To promote the rich traditional culture of Jammu and Kashmir, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) presented two mega cultural performances for Amarnath pilgrims at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The 447th Friday Series Musical Play "Neel Kanth Gangadhar" was held in close coordination with the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Department of Tourism Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Government, and Sangam Tru Art Production.

The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sh. Durga Parkash, Stage Manager, Central Bureau of Communication, and Sunil Kumar Sharma, Senior Kapida, Sh. Neeraj Verma, Sunita Atri, and Ram Lal, Senior Staff Members of CBC and staff of Yatri Bhawan.



The event was guided by Gulam Abbass, Director/HoO, Central Bureau of Communication. The program was powered by the Central Bureau of Communication and the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir.

The performances showcased the traditional folk culture of Jammu province, with special awareness items on the themes "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," "Swachh Bharat," "Meri Matti Mera Desh," and "G-20." Artists sang various songs including "Shiv Stuti," "Shiv Nath Teri Mahima teen log gaye," "Kali Mata Bawe Basi," "Japu Tero Naam Japu Tero Naam,"

"Jai Jai Shiv Shanker," "Sukh Mai na koi mere Ram," "Mera Bhola Na Mane," and "Shaher Shaher aur Gaon-Gaon main sab nainchhapathaihai," and "Swachh Bharat Ho Swasth Bharat."

More than 2000 pilgrims from various parts of the country attended the event and highly appreciated it. The Chief Guest remarked that the story of the Ganga Avatran included in the play was very powerful and meaningful, emphasizing the importance of living traditions in the Indian social system in this region. Additionally, another program was presented at

Durga Bhawan, Janipur Jammu, for Amarnath pilgrims, with a subsequent performance scheduled for the next day at Yatri Niwas Jammu.

The songs were written by Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, and composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor. The program was also recorded and uploaded online on social media for the benefit of the public.

Usha Raina, Troupe Leader of BLSKS, welcomed the Amarnath Yatris to Jammu and highlighted the story of the Ganga Avatran included in the play. She recounted the legend behind the Neelkanth

Mahadev Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and its significance in Hindu mythology.

M.C. Kotwal, General Secretary of BLSKS, explained the aims and objectives of the program in his keynote address, highlighting the various publicity and entertainment aspects of the song and drama division programs.

The performers included Usha Raina, Raju Bajgal, Rajni Gupta, M.C. Kotwal, Deepak Kumar, Zulekha Bano, Paramjeet, Chahat Chadha, Rahul Kumar, Afroz Alam, and casual departmental artists of CBC Kamla Devi, Sunil Verma, Sanjay Mehra, Bunty Kumar, and Rajeev Salotra, who presented memorable items on the occasion.

The event concluded with Ram Lal, Senior Artist of the Department, presenting a vote of thanks for the successful conduction of the programs.

DGP J&K sanctions meritorious scholarship amounting over Rs 11.76 lakh

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: Recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of wards of police personnel who have excelled in the 10th and 12th annual examinations during the 2023-2024 academic session, the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K R.R. Swain has sanctioned meritorious scholarship of over Rs 11.76 lakh in favour of 207 wards of serving police personnel under two different orders. The amount has been sanctioned out of J&K Police welfare fund.

The DGP has sanctioned over Rs 5.78 lakh for 93 meritorious wards of serving Police personnel who have secured 80% and above marks in the Annual Examination of Class 12th during the academic session 2023-24.

Rs 7200 each have been sanctioned in favour of thirty four meritorious wards who secured 90% and above marks and Rs 6000 each have been sanctioned in

favour of fifty nine meritorious wards who have secured 80% and above marks. The top three position holders in the list are Iqra Nissar daughter of Nissar Ahmad, Palak Gupta daughter of Narinder Gupta and Mohsin Mushtaq son of Mushtaq Ahmad.

The DGP has also sanctioned meritorious scholarship of rupees 5.78 lakh in favour of 144 wards of serving Police personnel who have secured 80% and above marks in the Annual Examination of class 10th during the academic session 2023-24. Rs 6000 each has been sanctioned in favour of sixty one meritorious wards who have secured 90% and above marks and Rs 4000 each have been sanctioned in favour of eighty three meritorious wards who have secured 80% and above marks in the annual examination of class 10th.

The top three position holders in the list are Taqdees Zehra daughter of Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, Hayah Shah daughter of Mubashir Ahmad and Saika Nazir daughter of Nazir Ahmad.

Harbhajan Singh's sarcastic jibe at Pak journo over security issues in country

Harbhajan Singh slammed a Pakistani journalist who tried to mock and target him for raising concerns over security issues in Pakistan. The security concerns have been regarding India's travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy 2025.

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh slammed a Pakistani journalist who tried to target him for his stance over India's participation in the Champions Trophy 2025. Harbhajan took a sarcastic jibe at the Pakistani journalist who tried to mock him. Harbhajan had supported BCCI's stance of not wanting to send the Indian team to Pakistan for the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025. The journalist posted a scorecard of Harbhajan getting hit for four sixes by Shahid Afridi during India's tour to Pakistan in 2006.

The Pakistani journalist tried to mock the former India player by saying that these are the kind of security issues he has been pointing out. Harbhajan retweeted the post and shared a screenshot from a newspa-



per from 2009 when the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked by Pakistani terrorists. He used this reference to point out the security concerns within the country and suggested that this was the reason as to why the Indian team should not travel to Pakistan.
"No not for this . Cricket Mai

Jeet har lagi rehti hai. I will tell u the real problem is this . Check the photo . Now get the Fâ€œ. out of here . F ka Matlab samaj aa gya hoga ya samjau? F means ur name . Plz don't think what u r thinking th meaning of F. You know what I mean ??Peace," Harbhajan wrote in the caption on X.

Harbhajan slams Pakistani journalist

Will India travel to Pakistan? Pakistan bagged the hosting rights for the Champions Trophy 2025. The country will host a mega event after more than two decades. After the terror attack on Sri Lanka's team bus, Pakistan was banned from hosting any international matches for a decade. Other countries have started touring Pakistan now, but amid the cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan, there is no green signal to their travel to the neighbouring country.

During last year's Asia Cup, as well when Pakistan were hosts, India played all their games in Sri Lanka. The BCCI is keen on getting neutral venues like Sri Lanka or the UAE for the Champions Trophy matches in 2025.

Rahul Dravid amongst Eoin Morgan's candidates to take over England coach job

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Eoin Morgan has included Rahul Dravid as one of the candidates he would pick to become the new England white-ball coach to replace Matthew Mott. Mott had stepped down from the job following England's T20 World Cup campaign as they failed to defend their second crown after a dismal performance in the ODI World Cup last year. Dravid would also step down from the India role, but after winning the T20 World Cup 2024.

Dravid is currently not in any role with a team and Morgan was quick to add him to the list of potential candidates. Speaking to Sky Sports, Morgan said that Rob Key has the job to make the England white-ball coach role as attractive as possible. The former England captain said that the ECB can then approach the highly-regarded coaches for the job.

"You got to remember, it's the England cricket team, it's one of the most resourced cricket teams in the world, so it is up to Rob [Key] to make that role as attractive as possible. So you then go to the best coaches or highly regarded coaches in the world and say 'Well, this

is a job that you want to do as opposed to having to second guess it,'" Morgan told Sky Sports.

Morgan said that he would approach Dravid, Ricky Ponting, Stephen Fleming and Brendon McCullum at the moment. McCullum, who is currently taking care of England red-ball side, was hailed as one of the best coaches in the world by Morgan.

"In my eyes, at the moment, you would go to Rahul Dravid, Ricky Ponting, Stephen Fleming, and Brendon McCullum. I say McCullum because I believe he is one of the best coaches in the world," he added.

What Dravid said after World Cup win Dravid had said that he would be able to move on from the win and joked he would be unemployed after leaving the job. The former India coach said he is hoping to move on after the win.

"I will be able to move on quickly from this win, next week I will be unemployed (laughs). I don't want to think too far ahead, but yes, I hope, I will be able to move on. I think that's what life is all about," said Dravid.

Currently, Dravid hasn't made any commitments about his future.

Let's go Carlos for the medal: Rafael Nadal cheers for Alcaraz for Olympic win

PARIS, Aug 2 (Agencies): Tennis legend Rafael Nadal shared a special message for the star player, Carlos Alcaraz, after he stormed into the semi-final of the men's singles at the Paris Olympics 2024. The dream team from Spain had paired together for the men's doubles event in the Paris Games. However, 'Nadalcaraz' suffered an early exit as they fell just one win short of entering the medals round. Nadal took to his social media and expressed his gratitude for having played with Alcaraz and called it an 'unforgettable experience'. He also rooted for Alcaraz to win a medal for Spain in the single event.

Alcaraz beat USA's Tommy Paul in straight sets to qualify for the semi-final round. However, Alcaraz had to dig deep to register a win against the 13th seeded Paul. The Spaniard was on course of heading for a decider until a brilliant comeback in the second set saw Alcaraz win 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) on the Court Philippe Chartier for two hours and one minute.
"Thank you, Carlos



Alcaraz, for these days that have been fantastic in many ways. Unforgettable experience with you and the entire team. And, now, the most important thing: Let's go, Carlos, for the medal. You are closer after today's victory. You can get it. We are all with you!," Nadal wrote on 'X'.

Alcaraz reaches semi-final Alcaraz looked to quickly put his disappointing doubles exit with Rafael Nadal behind him and successfully defended two break points in the opening game. While Paul matched him stride for stride during the open-

ing stages, Alcaraz got the all-important break in game six to edge in front before taking the first set.

Alcaraz extended his winning streak at the Paris Clay to 11 matches and became the youngest man to reach the singles semifinals at a Summer Games since Novak Djokovic in 2008.

"I had a really great two weeks in Roland Garros - playing great tennis here, feeling great moving, feeling great hitting the ball. So (I came) here having the same feeling," Alcaraz said. "But I can lose against everybody. I have to respect every player."

Boxer Imane Khelif at centre of gender row at Olympics. What is the truth?

PARIS, Aug 2 (Agencies): "I have never been hit so hard in my life," Italian boxer Angela Carini, in tears, said after withdrawing from her 66 kg category bout with Algeria's Imane Khelif. It took just 46 seconds and a single punch for the Paris Olympics to be embroiled in its biggest controversy so far.

During those 46 seconds, Carini was hit twice, suffering a suspected broken nose. It was enough for her to withdraw from the fight and fuelled debate on social media about the fairness of the contest as many started to label Imane Khelif as "biologically male" and a "transgender".

It did not help that Khelif was disqualified from the 2023 World Championships in New Delhi due to "elevated levels of testosterone". Lin Yu-Ting of Taiwan, who is also participating in the Paris Olympics, was also disqualified last year.

A gender eligibility test reportedly found that she had XY chromosomes, which are typically found in males. Most women have XX-sex chromosomes.

Then, the International Boxing Association president Umar Kremlev said



Khelif tried to "deceive" her colleagues and "pretend to be women".

DIFFERENT BODIES, DIFFERENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

Why was Imane Khelif allowed to participate in the Olympics in that case? It is due to two different bodies being in charge of the boxing events.

The World Championships was run by the International Boxing Association (IBA), which has since been banned due to alleged corruption and governance issues. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is in charge of boxing in Paris.

The controversy seemed to have arisen as both bodies have different medical standards for competitors. The IOC has stated that Khelif and Lin were eligible competitors.

"They are women on their passports, they

are women who have competed in the Tokyo Olympics and have been competing for many years," IOC spokesperson Mark Adams said at a press conference.

At the heart of the controversy is the IOC's recent change in guidelines on testosterone levels. Athletes are no longer required to undergo hormone-level modifications to compete. Moreover, the IOC has held that testosterone was not always a determinant of physical advantage.

However, Imane Khelif, who has faced significant criticism on social media, including from the likes of author JK Rowling and tech billionaire Elon Musk, does not identify herself as transgender or intersex.

"When will this madness stop? Men cannot become women," former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss tweeted.

Rowling commented, "This isn't sport. From the bullying cheat in red all the way up to the organisers who allowed this to happen, this is men revelling in their power over women."

However, Khelif, who had humble beginnings and used to sell bread on the streets of her Algerian village, has been competing in global boxing events for many years, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

She has passed the IOC's standards and received a clearance certificate to participate. The development has kicked off a debate about athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD) participating in women's events.

WHAT IS DSD? WHY IS IT AN ISSUE? In simple terms, Differences of Sexual Development is a rare condition where people raised as females have XY sex chromosomes and testosterone levels in the male range, as per the official Olympics site. These women also have higher muscle mass, skeletal advantage and faster twitch muscle.

It may also include differences in genitalia from those typically associated with gender

at birth. Thus, in combat sports like boxing, this can be a serious safety issue.

However, IOC rules say the inclusion of athletes with DSDs should be the default, and they should only be excluded from women's competition if there are "clear fairness or safety issues".

However, the controversy surrounding it is not new and the issue of testosterone limits previously grabbed attention in the case of Caster Semenya. Semenya, a South African runner, won gold medals in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

She was barred from competing in the 2020 Olympics after it was found that her body naturally produces higher levels of testosterone than normal for women.

On Saturday, Khelif will return to the boxing ring in the quarter-finals of the light welterweight division. This time, her opponent will be Hungary's Anna Luca Hamori.

Nevertheless, the image of an inconsolable Carini falling to the floor in tears after withdrawing from the bout will no doubt go down as one of the most controversial moments in Olympic history.

After Olympics medal, shooter Swapnil Kusale gets double promotion in railways

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): Following his historic bronze medal win, India's Swapnil Kusale received a double promotion from being a travelling ticket examiner to Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Sports Cell in Mumbai on August 2, Friday. Kusale won a historic medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event to bag India's 3rd one at the Paris Olympics 2024. This was also the third medal for India in shooting.

Kusale has been working for Central Railways since 2015. The 28-year-old from Kambalwadi village near Kolhapur in Maharashtra has been competing in international events since 2012, but he had to wait another 12 years to make his Olympics debut at the Paris Games.

It has now been confirmed that the Indian shooter has got a double promotion, after the statement was issued on Thursday.

"The vacant Jr.Scale/Gr.B post

of Mechanical Deptt. is transferred for operation as OSD(Sports)/Sports Cell, HQ."

"In compliance to instructions contained in Railway Board's RBE No.39/2017 dated 25.04.2017 and 2018/E(Sports)/4(3)/4/Policy dated 27.09.2019, approval has been accorded by the General Manager for grant of 1st Out of Turn promotion to Shri Swapnil Suresh Kusale, Jr.TE/PA Division (Group "C") (Sportsperson Shooting) in Group "B" Gazetted cadre on account of his outstanding achievement in the field of Sports (Shooting) in Paris Olympic, 2024 and posted as OSD(Sports) in Level-08 in Sports Cell, HQ office, CSMT against the vacant Scale / Group "B" post of Mechanical Deptt. transferred for operation as OSD(Sports)/CSMT, subject to passing the prescribed Medical Examination under Para 530(a) of IRMM-2000 and subject to Vigilance clearance," read the statement.

Kusale's Dhoni-esque journey



Speaking after his medal win, Kusale said that he admires Dhoni and does relate to his story as he is also a ticket collector like him.

"I don't follow anyone specific in the shooting world. Outside of that, I admire Dhoni for the person that he is. My sport requires me to be as calm and patient as he is on the field. I also relate to his story as I am a ticket collector like he was," said Kusale.

The assistant sports officer at Central Railway had said after Kusale's win that he would be getting a double promotion.

'Will take a call once...': MS Dhoni's big 'best interest' take on IPL future

NEW DELHI, Aug 2 (Agencies): With rules around IPL 2025 player regulations and retention scheme in the process of being firmed up, MS Dhoni has said he would wait and see how the rules are before deciding on his IPL future with Chennai Super Kings (CSK). "There is a lot of time for it. We have to see what decision they take on player retention etc. Right now, the ball is not in our court. So, once the rules and regulations get formalised, I will take a call, but needs to be in the best interest of the team," said Dhoni at a promotional event in Hyderabad. Questions on Dhoni's future at the IPL have been a huge source of discussion, especially after CSK made Rituraj Gaikwad captain for IPL 2024,



where they finished at fifth place in the tournament and failed to qualify for the playoffs. As of now, all ten IPL teams are not on the same page for the mega auction rules, ranging from player retention to the Impact Player rule.

After a meeting with all franchise owners' in Mumbai, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said there was constructive dia-

logue with the IPL team owners on a variety of subjects, and the recommendations will be taken to the IPL Governing Council further deliberation and evaluation.

Dhoni, who captained India to 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup triumphs, picked Jasprit Bumrah as his favourite bowler from the Indian team. Bumrah was the Player

of the Tournament in India's T20 World Cup triumph in June, picking 15 wickets from eight matches at an economy rate of 4.17.

"It's easy to pick my favourite bowler because Bumrah is there. It's difficult to pick a batsman because we have many good batsmen. But that doesn't mean bowlers aren't good," he said.

In terms of batters, Dhoni didn't pick a favourite. "It's difficult to pick one among batters as whomever I see batting, he looks the best. But when I see someone else he also looks great. But as long as Team India is winning, I don't want to pick a batter (as my favourite). I hope they will keep scoring runs for the team," he concluded.

UK Experts from Imperial College of London visit AIIMS Jammu for Lecture on Medical Ethics and Law



Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: AIIMS Jammu is dedicated to excellence in Medical Education, Training, Healthcare Research, and Patient Care. Through innovative programs and international partnerships, AIIMS Jammu strive to improve healthcare outcomes and contribute to the well-being of our community. AIIMS Jammu recently hosted a distinguished delegation from the United Kingdom for an enlightening lecture on medical ethics and Law and discussions on future collaboration. The visiting experts included Dr. Daniel Sokol, a barrister in London and visiting lecturer in medical ethics at Imperial College London; Harjeet Singh, a trustee for an educational charity; and Abhineet Kour, an NHS nurse and dedicated charity volunteer.

Dr. Daniel Sokol, renowned for his expertise of 20 years in medical ethics, delivered a compelling keynote lecture that addressed critical ethical challenges in contemporary healthcare. Dr. Sokol's insights, drawn from his extensive legal and ethical background, provided valuable perspectives to the healthcare professionals and students at AIIMS Jammu. Harjeet Singh, a passionate advocate for educational equity, engaged

in discussions on potential educational collaborations. As a trustee for an educational charity, Mr. Singh shared best practices and explored initiatives aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for underserved communities, fostering a global exchange of ideas and strategies. Mrs. Abhineet Kour, an experienced NHS nurse and committed charity volunteer, conducted an impactful workshop on community health initiatives. "Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, informed us that their visit was a significant opportunity for our Institution to gain international perspectives on

medical ethics, education, and healthcare. The discussions and insights shared during their visit have laid the groundwork for future collaborations that will benefit both our communities." The visit featured a series of events expanded over two days, which included the keynote lecture by Dr. Sokol for the Faculty, senior residents, Nursing faculty, Nursing Officers, MBBS students, and B.Sc. Nursing students, a discussion on global education strategies led by Mr. Singh, and a workshop on community health initiatives, Lt Gen Sunil Kant, Dean Research, MS, HoD Hospital Administration, AIIMS

Jammu, who was present on the occasion and enlightened the audience about the research activities being done at AIIMS Jammu, mentioning that currently, AIIMS Jammu is working on 41 Extramurally Funded Projects and 29 Intramurally Funded Projects from the Faculty, but the students have also contributed 11 Research projects. Dr Sokol also presented his book "Tough Choices - Stories from the Front Line of Medical Ethics" to Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, along with MS and the Deans and Associate Deans AIIMS Jammu. He also mentioned that after visiting AIIMS Jammu, he was impressed with the facilities and found them at the level of the Global standards. These events fostered meaningful dialogue and strengthened the ties between AIIMS Jammu and the visiting experts from the Imperial College London UK, paving the way for ongoing cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Kashmiris Pandits pay tributes to Major Sushil Aima

Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 2: Scores of Kashmiris and exiled Pandits paid rich tributes to Major Sushil Aima, an illustrious son of Kashmir and a martyr, at his memorial on Major Sushil Aima Road in Gurugram, Haryana.

Major Aima is remembered for his supreme sacrifice in the defense of the motherland and the dharma of Bharat Mata. Among the attendees were Ashok Bhan, noted Supreme Court Senior Lawyer and prominent Kashmiri leader; Ajay Pandita, Kashmir Peace Lovers (KPL) coordinator; Dr. Anil Vaisnavi, President of the Gurgaon Kashmiri Association; Rohit Dhar, Vice President of All India Kashmiri Samaj; as well as academicians, civil society activists, artists, and veterans.

On the night of August 1, 1999, Major Aima, while preparing for his departure to Delhi, was tasked with thwarting an imminent attack by a large group of Pakistani terrorists and foreign mercenaries near a village in Poonch district. Under his leadership, the army unit 17 Rashtriya Rifles cordoned off the area and launched an all-out attack. The fierce encounter lasted over seven hours, during which Major Aima personally killed three terrorists before being fatally



wounded. Despite being injured, he continued to fight and provided cover for a wounded colleague. The operation resulted in the elimination of five hardcore militants and the recovery of significant arms and explosives. Major Aima was martyred at the age of 32, defending his country and its constitutional values. His sacrifice earned him the nation's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, the Kirti Chakra. Born on July 15, 1966, in an illustrious family in Srinagar, Major Sushil Aima had a passion for computers and military service. He joined the National Defence Acade-

my in 1985 and was commissioned into the Corps of Air Defence Artillery in 1988. His career was marked by bravery and leadership, particularly during his service in the militancy-affected Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir. He is survived by his wife, Archana Aima, and their children, Ridhi and Siddharth. The tribute event echoed a unified sentiment: "Salute to the martyrdom of all those who made the supreme sacrifices of their lives in protecting the innocent citizens and in blunting the nefarious designs of enemies to harm and bleed our motherland."

BJP uses people of Jammu for vote bank politics: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Aug 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Friday while interacting with the media here said, the BJP in Jammu has lost its faith towards their voters. BJP leaders are so shameless that they have no concern about Jammu's genuine issues and problems. Gupta said after facing betrayal so many times from BJP leaders people are still becoming fools deliberately. While Jammu has all along been supporting all moves of the Centre even at the cost of its own interests, the latter has always failed to reciprocate appropriately, said BSP leader. "People of Jammu are used for vote bank poli-



tics with hardly any regard for their sentiments. The Centre has all along been focused on Kashmir with Jammu made to play a second fiddle. And the tradition continues even after Article 370 abrogation. The last five years have not seen any change in the centre's policy towards J&K except that it has been converted into a Union Territory," he added. Rajesh Gupta said that the people are waiting eagerly for assembly elections to teach a lesson to the BJP for failing to fulfil the promises

made before coming to power at the Centre and in J&K. He said that people should elect those who will ensure that their voice is heard. "People of J&K want a credible voice to represent their aspirations and BSP is the only credible voice of all the regions of J&K," he added. "The people of J&K remember the BJP for unleashing countless miseries on the UT and its people. People still recount the numerous instances of BJP and its leaders committed from time to time. The treacherous role played by the BJP and its leadership is an open secret," he said, adding, now the responsibility rests on people to choose between forces inimical to UT's integrity. "In the end, it is the people whose resolve will prevail," he said.

Vivek Bali applauds New Gair Mumkin Khads Policy

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: JD(U) State General Secretary Vivek Bali, has commended the Administrative Council of Jammu and Kashmir for its progressive decision to revise the policy for delineating lands recorded as Gair Mumkin Khads in revenue records. This landmark decision has been approved by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Vivek Bali emphasized the significance of this policy revision, highlighting its potential to enhance land utilization and stimulate economic growth in the region. The revised policy will bring clarity and facilitate the productive use of lands previously categorized as Gair Mumkin

Khads, thus unlocking their potential for development. "The decision by the Administrative Council, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, marks a significant step forward for Jammu and Kashmir. This policy change will not only optimize land resources but also contribute to the overall economic prosperity of the region," said Vivek Bali. The JDU expresses its gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor and the Administrative Council for their visionary approach and commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir. This policy revision is expected to pave the way for new opportunities, benefiting both the local population and the broader economy.

Prabas meeting held at BVP Vivekanand Branch



Top News Report

JAMMU Aug 2: Vijay Sharma, the State Vice President and Samparak Parmukh of Bharatiya Vidya Parishad (BVP) J&K Prant, held a Prabas meeting of the BVP Vivekananda Branch at Luthra Academy in Last Morh, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was presided over by Branch President Vijay Phojaj, with Arun Sharma, National Member of the NGSC team, as a special guest. In the meeting, Vijay Phojaj welcomed the special guests, Arun Sharma and Vijay Sharma. He elaborated on the various activities carried out by the branch and highlighted the promotional efforts that have led to the branch having

104 members. Vijay Sharma inquired about various working aspects of the branch and expressed his appreciation. Others who participated in the meeting included Vaid, Goswami, Kapoor Secretary, Kohli Finance Secretary, Pawan and Kapai.

GLDM Degree College organises orientation programme on "Cultural Resource Mapping" of Hiranagar block

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Aug 2: GLDM Degree College Hiranagar in collaboration with INTACH Jammu Chapter organises orientation programme on "Cultural Resource Mapping" of Hiranagar block, on Friday under the ongoing Summer Internship programme for semester 5th students of Department of English and Department of Hindi. The programme started with lighting of the traditional lamp by the Principal, Dr. Pragya Khanna, C M Seth (IFS ret.), chief guest and other guests of honour. The guests were also given tokens of appreciation in the form of saplings. Dr. Pragya Khanna, principal of the college in her address lauded the efforts and contribution of INTACH Jammu chapter in the preservation and conservation of tangible and intangible heritage of Jammu province. S M Sahani, Convenor

INTACH (Jammu Chapter) while sharing his passion for conserving the local heritage apprised the students about the origin and establishment of INTACH. He further acquainted them with various initiatives organised the cultural heritage of Jammu. Dr. CM Seth spoke about the importance of Internship programme launched under NEP 2020 for the students as this enhances the practical knowledge of learners while facilitating and complementing their theoretical knowledge. He apprised the students about cultural resource mapping and directed them to prepare comprehensive reports and submit them to their mentors at the end of the course for grading. Kirpal Singh, made a presentation on Folk Art and Crafts of Jammu. Darshan Pal, from the Department of Handicrafts and Handlooms, highlighted the various training programmes and projects

offered by the department. Dr. Sonia Jasrotia shared some insights about the Food Crafts and cuisines of Jammu. Among other prominent guests were AK Kapoor, Sh. Arvind Kotwal and Dr. Rohini, Assistant Director, Department of Handicrafts and Handlooms, Hiranagar. Prof. Rakesh Sharma, HoD Hindi welcomed all the speakers and participants on behalf of GLDM Degree College Hiranagar. Dr. Vijay Chauhan, Assistant Professor in Hindi presented the formal vote of thanks. Isha (volunteer INTACH) conducted the proceedings of the event. Among others present on the occasion were Prof. Bindu Sharma, HoD English, Prof. Punam Kamotra, HoD Chemistry, Prof. Ganga Sharma, HoD Dogri, Prof. Amit Sharma, HoD Political Science, Prof. Rajesh Sharma, HoD Mathematics, Prof. Balbir Singh, HoD Physical Education and others.

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